



wherein, in formula (4),  $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^3$  each is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group, Z represents a single bond, a substituted methylene group, a substituted imino group, an oxygen atom or a cycloalkylene group, and p and q each is 0 or an integer of 1 to 6.

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3. (Amended): The bis(2-aryl-5-pyridyl) compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 1, wherein, in formula (1), X is a group represented by formula (4).

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4. (Twice Amended) The bis(2-aryl-5-pyridyl) compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 1, wherein said aromatic hydrocarbon substituent is substituted by 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl groups, lower alkoxy groups, halogeno(lower alkyl) groups, lower alkoxy(lower alkyl) groups, hydroxy(lower alkyl) groups, carboxyl group, (lower alkoxy)carbonyl groups, unsubstituted or (lower alkyl)- and/or (lower alkoxy)-substituted carbamoyl groups, lower alkanoyl groups, formyl group, lower alkanoyloxy groups, halogen atoms, hydroxyl group, cyano, (lower alkyl)thio groups, amino group, mono- or di-(lower alkyl)amino groups, (lower alkyl)sulfonylamino groups, pyrrolidinyl groups, and alkylendioxy groups.

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9. (Amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising, as an active ingredient, an effective amount of a bis(2-aryl-5-pyridyl) compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 1.

10. (Amended): A method of treating, arresting, alleviating, or reducing allergic immune disease in a subject, comprising

administering the pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 9 to a subject.

11. (Amended): The method according to Claim 10, wherein said allergic immune disease is at least one member selected from the group consisting of asthma, atopic dermatitis, allergic rhinitis, inflammatory bowel disease, contact dermatitis and an allergic opthalmopathy.

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12. (Amended): A method of arresting, alleviating, or reducing the production of IgE antibody in a subject comprising,

administering the bis(2-aryl-5-pyridyl) compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 1 to a subject.

13. (Amended): A pharmaceutical composition, comprising: a bis(2-aryl-5-pyridyl) compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 1 and a pharmacologically acceptable carrier.

14. (Amended): A method of treating or alleviating a subject suffering from an allergic immune disease, which comprises:

administering an effective amount of a bis(2-aryl-5-pyridyl) compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 1 to said subject.

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Please add the following claims.

15. (New): The method according to Claim 14, wherein said allergic immune disease is at least one member selected from the group consisting of asthma, atopic dermatitis, allergic rhinitis, inflammatory bowel disease, contact dermatitis and an allergic ophthalmopathy.

16. (New) A method of treating, alleviating, arresting, or reducing the symptoms of allergic immune disease in a subject, comprising  
administering an effective amount of a bis(2-aryl-5-pyridyl) compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 1 to said subject.

17. (New): The method according to Claim 16, wherein said allergic immune disease is at least one member selected from the group consisting of asthma, atopic dermatitis, allergic rhinitis, inflammatory bowel disease, contact dermatitis and an allergic ophthalmopathy.

18. (New) A method of treating, alleviating, arresting, or reducing the symptoms of allergic immune disease in a subject, comprising  
administering the pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 9 to said subject.

19. (New): The method according to Claim 18, wherein said allergic immune disease is at least one member selected from the group consisting of asthma, atopic dermatitis, allergic rhinitis, inflammatory bowel disease, contact dermatitis and an allergic ophthalmopathy.

b6 20 (New) A method of treating, alleviating, arresting, or reducing the symptoms of allergic immune disease in a subject, comprising administering the pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 13 to said subject.

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SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

Support for the above amendment and newly added Claims 15-20 is found in the original claims. No new matter is believed to be introduced by the amendment above.